
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CONCUSSIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that concussions or mild
2 traumatic brain injuries sustained by children and adolescents
3 frequently occur in a variety of sports and recreational
4 activities, such as football, soccer, bicycling, and
5 skateboarding. In October 2011, the Centers for Disease Control
6 and Prevention reported that the number of traumatic brain
7 injury-related emergency department visits in this country by
8 persons nineteen years old or younger that were related to
9 sports and recreational activities increased from 153,375 in
10 2001 to 248,418 in 2009. In this State, the department of
11 education's athletic health care trainers program also noted an
12 increase in the number of reported concussions, from two hundred
13 thirteen in the 2007-2008 school year to four hundred forty-six
14 in the 2010-2011 school year.

15 The marked increase in national and state concussion
16 statistics may be attributed at least in part to an increased
17 awareness of the dangers of concussions by the people involved
18 in sports activities. The department of education began its



1 concussion management program in 2011 to educate coaches,
2 parents, and athletic trainers and provide care for students.
3 The legislature finds, however, that a statewide concussion
4 educational program is necessary to ensure that public and
5 private high school students, school personnel, and parents are
6 provided with consistent and up-to-date information on
7 concussions and management of symptoms and injuries relating to
8 a concussion.

9 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
10 education and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to
11 develop a concussion educational program for students and
12 student athletes who are fourteen to eighteen years old. The
13 program shall include:

- 14 (1) Education of students, student athletes, parents,
15 sports officials, school faculty and staff, and school
16 administrators of the signs and symptoms of a
17 concussion and what to do if someone demonstrates any
18 of these signs or symptoms;
- 19 (2) An annual educational session for coaches and athletic
20 trainers about the signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- 21 (3) A requirement for the mandatory removal of a student
22 from the athletic activity that the student is



1 participating in if the student demonstrates any signs
2 or symptoms of a concussion; and

3 (4) A requirement for a concussed student's physician to
4 evaluate the student and determine whether the student
5 is able to return to a particular athletic activity.

6 SECTION 2. As used in this Act:

7 "Coach" means a paid or volunteer coach.

8 "Concussion" means a pathophysiological process affecting
9 the brain, caused by traumatic biomechanical forces.

10 "Licensed health care professional" means an advanced
11 practice registered nurse, certified or registered athletic
12 trainer, neuropsychologist, physician assistant, physician, or
13 osteopathic physician trained in the management of sports
14 concussions.

15 SECTION 3. The department of education and the Hawaii High
16 School Athletic Association shall develop a concussion
17 educational program that shall include:

18 (1) Educating students, parents, sports officials, school
19 faculty and staff, coaches, and school administrators
20 about the signs and symptoms of a concussion and the
21 procedures to follow if a person displays any of the
22 signs or symptoms of a concussion;



- 1 (2) Annual educational sessions about the signs and
2 symptoms of a concussion for coaches and athletic
3 trainers;
- 4 (3) The need for the mandatory removal of a student from
5 the school athletic activity or event that the student
6 is participating in, if the student demonstrates any
7 signs or symptoms of a concussion;
- 8 (4) The need for a concussed student's licensed health
9 care professional to evaluate the student and
10 determine whether the student is able to return to a
11 particular athletic activity; and
- 12 (5) The monitoring of a student's return to physical
13 activity by a certified athletic trainer employed by
14 the school, based upon peer-reviewed scientific
15 evidence, such as that from the National Athletic
16 Trainer Association or Centers for Disease Control and
17 Prevention.

18 SECTION 4. Every public and private school that is a
19 member of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association shall
20 develop and implement a concussion awareness plan. Each plan
21 shall require:



- 1 (1) Annual concussion awareness training for coaches,
2 administrators, faculty, staff, and sports officials,
3 including:
- 4 (A) The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- 5 (B) The need to obtain proper medical attention for a
6 person suspected of having a concussion; and
- 7 (C) Information on the nature and risk of
8 concussions, including the danger of continuing
9 to play after sustaining a concussion and the
10 proper method of allowing a student who has
11 sustained a concussion to return to activity;
- 12 (2) Annual concussion awareness education for parents and
13 students who participate in a school's athletic team
14 or programs or both. The parents and students shall
15 sign a concussion information sheet that they have
16 attended and received concussion awareness education;
- 17 (3) Immediate removal from a game, practice, or other
18 activity of any student who exhibits signs, symptoms,
19 or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as
20 loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion,
21 or balance problems. The student shall not return to



1 the activity until cleared to do so by a licensed
2 health care professional; and

3 (4) The student to obtain written clearance from a
4 licensed health care professional prior to returning
5 to academics and athletics, which:

6 (A) States that the student is capable of resuming
7 participation in a particular sport;

8 (B) May require the student to follow a plan designed
9 to aid the student to recover and resume
10 participation in school and athletic activities
11 that:

12 (i) Includes, as appropriate, periods of
13 cognitive and physical rest while symptoms
14 of a concussion persist; and

15 (ii) Reintroduces cognitive and physical demands
16 on the student on a progressive basis to
17 prevent the reemergence or worsening of
18 symptoms of a concussion; and

19 (C) Requires that the student's return to physical
20 activity be monitored by the school's certified
21 athletic trainer, if an athletic trainer is
22 employed by the school.



1 SECTION 5. The department of education shall submit a
2 report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
3 convening of the regular session of 2013 on the development and
4 implementation of the concussion educational program.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Concussions; Concussion Awareness Program; School Athletics

Description:

Requires the DOE and the Hawaii High School Athletic Association to develop a concussion awareness program to provide guidelines for public and private schools. (SD1)

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